

*SANTA CLARA VALLEY
HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN
NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN*

Public Kick-off Meeting

April 05, 2005

Morgan Hill

Local Partners:



Agenda

- Purpose -

To provide background and a general overview of the Santa Clara Valley HCP/NCCP process

- Outcomes

- Process

- Warning:

"As a manager, you will have the least amount of useful information of anyone in the organization. You can compensate for that by being the one who does all the presenting. Use computer slide shows and overhead transparencies to disguise your cluelessness."

Dogbert's Top Secret Management Handbook, 1996

Desired Outcomes of Today's Presentation

- Understand overview and scope of the Santa Clara Valley HCP/NCCP project
- Understand basic regulatory and historical context
- Understand role of the four Local Partners
- Understand timeline and schedule
- Introduce the public involvement process

Presentation Process

- Where is the plan headed?
- How did we get here?
- Where are we?
- Why a public involvement process?
- What is the role of stakeholders?

Where We Are Going?

- “Begin with the end in mind”
- Brief overview of HCP & NCCP
- Major process steps
- Locally driven process
- Clear & open public process

Comparison of:

HCP

- Federal ESA
- Minimize/mitigate
- Listed/non-listed species
- 5 point Policy guidance
- Incidental take permit for non federal action
- "No surprises"

NCCP

- California ESA
- Provide for conservation
- Listed/non-listed species
- Independent science, public participation, monitoring, & adaptive management required
- Take authorization
- Statutory assurances

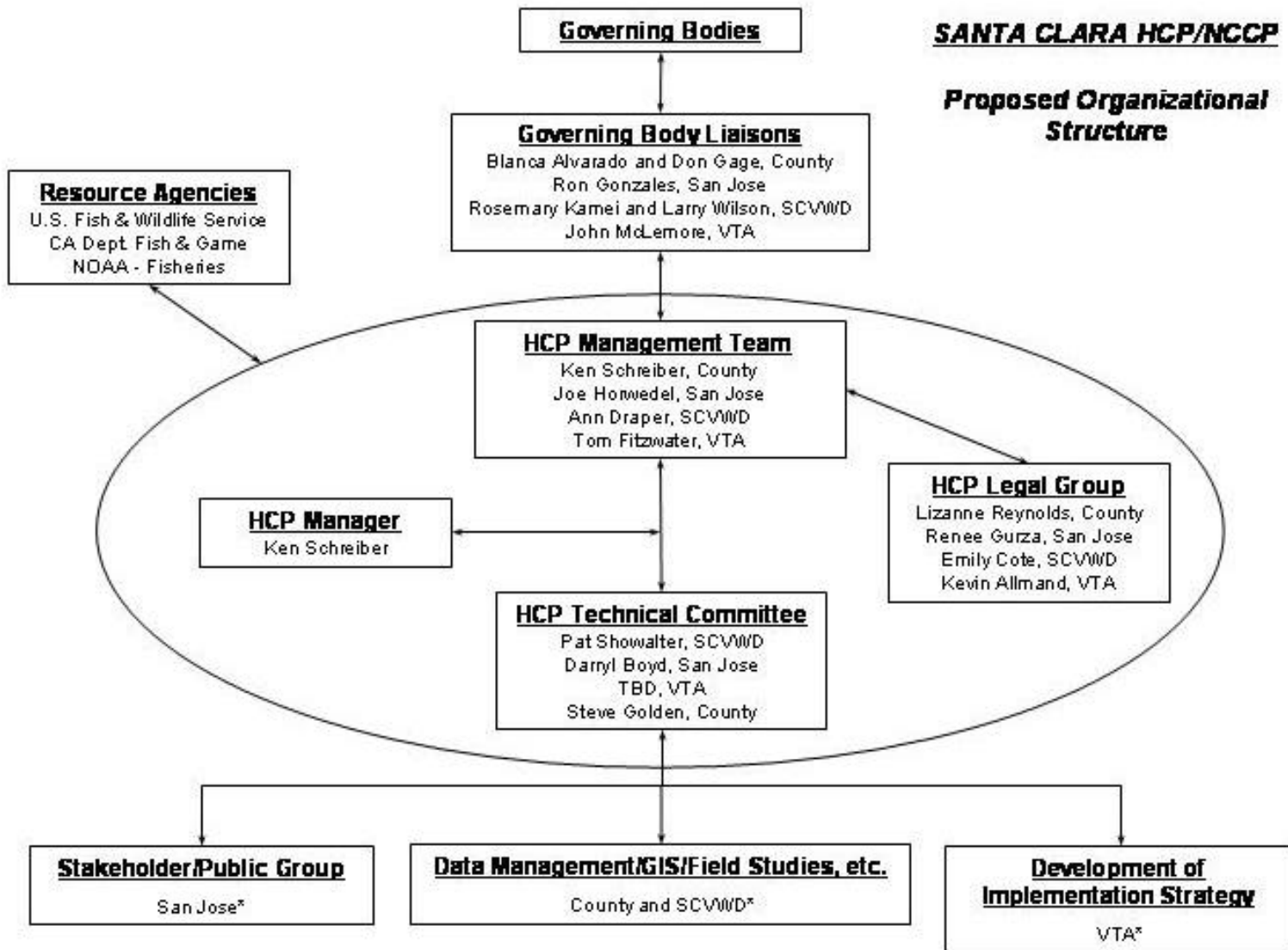
Major HCP/NCCP Steps

- Planning Agreement (NCCP)
- Public Involvement process (NCCP)
- Independent science review (NCCP)
- HCP/NCCP Plan development
- Formal permit processing
 - Integrated Plan
 - NEPA/CEQA Document
 - Implementation Agreement
- Post permit – Monitoring & adaptive management

How We Got Here

- Brief history – Biological Opinions
- Four Local Partners:
 - City of San Jose,
 - County of Santa Clara,
 - Santa Clara Valley Water District
 - Valley Transportation Authority
- MOU (organizational chart)
- Scope (project area map)
- Meetings with wildlife agencies

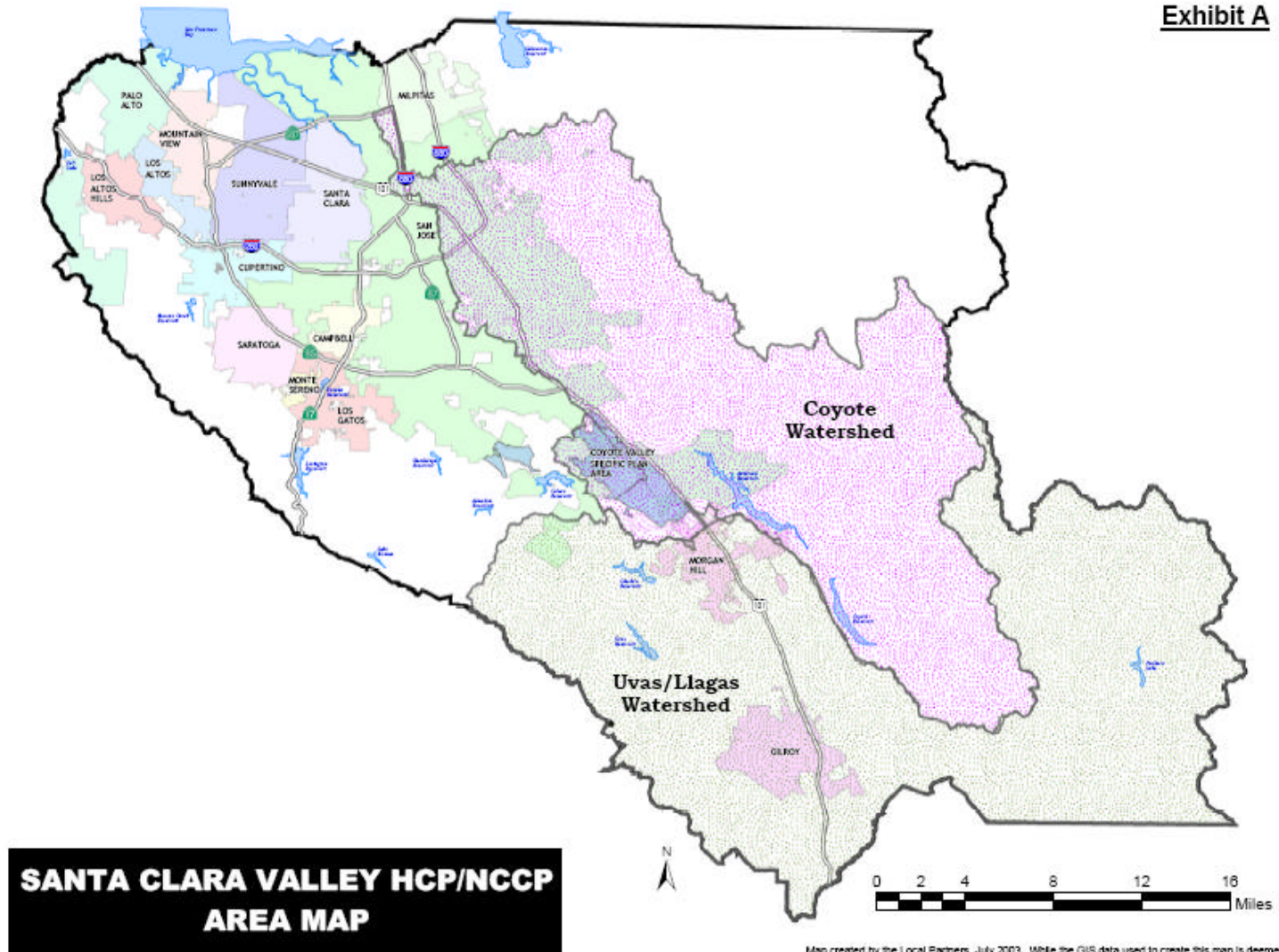
Organization Chart



*Coordinator

Project Area Map

Exhibit A



Map created by the Local Partners, July 2003. While the GIS data used to create this map is deemed reliable, it should be only be used for planning purposes and the Local Partners assume no liability.

Where Are We?

- Project manager hired (Ken Schreiber)
- Draft Planning Agreement – (comments due 4/15)
- Data assessment underway
- RFQ completed, RFP in preparation
- Funding and cost sharing recommendation
- Seeking independent stakeholder facilitator
- Identify independent science advisors
- Beginning public participation & outreach

Next Steps

- Finalize Planning Agreement
 - Public review period ends April 15th
 - Elected bodies will need to approve
- Hire three consultants by Summer
 - Lead Consultant (Biology/Technical)
 - Public information/Stakeholder Group facilitator
 - Independent Science advisor facilitator
- Solicit interest in and appoint the Stakeholder Group
 - Interest in participating forms available
 - Group to be appointed at August 25th Liaison Group meeting
 - First meeting in early September

Questions/Answers



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Communications Plan

- Governing Board Liaison Group
- Management Team
- Stakeholders Group
- Additional Public Involvement

Governing Bodies Liaison Group

- Consists of representatives from the 4 Local Partners
- Provides overall plan direction
- Approves funding decisions
- Quarterly meetings
- Open to public
- Next meeting:

April 21, 2005

6:30pm

County Government Center

70 West Hedding Street, Room 157

Management Team

- Consists of representatives from 4 Local Partners
- Manages HCP preparation and makes key decisions
- Coordinates Local Agency input into Plan
- Primary contact for wildlife management agencies
- Bi-monthly meetings

Stakeholders Group

ROLE

- Advisory
- Provide input early in planning process
- Provide innovative and creative problem solving
- Assist in Plan development
- Improve decision-making
- Increase credibility

Stakeholders Group

REPRESENTATION

- Diverse participation with broad perspective
- Monthly meetings or as necessary
- Long-term commitment
- Applications available (see tonight's handouts)

Additional Public Involvement

- Community education meetings and workshops
- Focused interest group outreach and meetings
- Property owner outreach
- Public hearings as required

Questions/Answers



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Planning Agreement

- Planning Agreement

An agreement document required by the California Natural Communities Planning Act to define the goals of obligations of the planning process

(Drafted and approved at the beginning of the HCP/NCCP process)

Draft Planning Agreement

- Draft for Public Review (21-day public review comment period mandatory)
- Released on March 14, 2005
- Comments are due April 1, 2005

Planning Agreement: "Parties"

- County of Santa Clara
- City of San Jose
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Valley Transportation Authority
- CA Department of Fish & Game
- US Fish & Wildlife Service

Planning Agreement: Purpose

- Define the parties' goals and obligations
- Define the preliminary boundaries of the Planning Area
- Identify a preliminary list of natural communities and species
- Identify preliminary conservation objectives for the Planning Area
- Establish process for independent scientific input

Planning Agreement: Purpose (Con't)

- Ensure co-ordination between Local Partners and Wildlife Agencies
- Establish an interim process for development that takes place during the development of the HCP/NCCP that encourages conditions that support the preliminary conservation objectives.
- Establish a public participation process
- Encourage planning for wetlands and waters of the US

Regulatory Goals

- Allow for growth & development that is compatible with the HCP/NCCP goals
- Allow for growth & development that is compatible with State and federal requirements
- Provide for greater regulatory efficiency
- Provide for regulatory streamlining
- Provide for great regulatory certainty.

Planning Goals

- Allow appropriate compatible growth & development consistent with applicable laws
- Provide a basis for permits and authorizations to lawfully take listed species
- Provide a process for issuance of take authorizations for covered species that are not currently listed, but may be listed in the future

Planning Goals (con't)

- Provide a comprehensive way to standardize mitigation (FESA, CEQA, NEPA, NCCPA, etc)
- Provide a more efficient and less costly project review process that has greater conservation values than the current project-by-project, species-by-species review and permit process.
- Provide authority for water supply, flood protection, and watershed activities

Preliminary List of Covered Activities

- Water District water supply, flood protection and watershed activities
- Land uses and development activities that the Local Agencies undertake or have land use or other authority
- Certain agricultural activities and adaptive habitat management and monitoring activities

Preliminary List of Species

Preliminary Species List

Species	Common Name	SPECIES TYPE	FEDERAL LISTING				STATE LISTING
			FE	FT	SOC	NL	
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	Tricolored Blackbird	A			X		SSC
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	California Tiger Salamander	A		X			SSC
<i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>tener</i>	Alkali Milk-Vetch	P			X		
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Burrowing Owl	A			X		SSC
<i>Castilleja affinis</i> ssp. <i>neglecta</i>	Tiburon Indian Paintbrush	P	X				Threatened
<i>Ceanothus ferrisiae</i>	Coyote Ceanothus	P	X				
<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>congdonii</i>	Congdon's Tarplant	P			X		
<i>Chorizanthe robusta</i> var. <i>robusta</i>	Robust Spineflower	P	X				
<i>Cirsium fontinale</i> var. <i>campylon</i>	Mt. Hamilton Thistle	P			X		
<i>Clemmys marmorata</i> (& subspecies)	Western Pond Turtle	A				X	SSC
<i>Dudleya setchellii</i>	Santa Clara Valley Dudleya	P	X				
<i>Euphydryas editha bayensis</i>	Bay Checkerspot Butterfly	I		X			
<i>Lasthenia conjugens</i>	Contra Costa Goldfields	P	X				
<i>Lessingia micradenia</i> var. <i>glabrata</i>	Smooth Lessingia	P			X		
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Steelhead - South California Coast Esu	A		X			SSC
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Steelhead - Central California Coast Esu	A		X			SSC
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Chinook Salmon	A		X			
<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	California Red-Legged Frog	A		X			SSC
<i>Rana boylei</i>	Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog	A			X		SSC
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bank Swallow	A			X		Threatened
<i>Sanicula saxatilis</i>	Rock Sanicle	P			X		Rare
<i>Streptanthus albidus</i> ssp. <i>albidus</i>	Metcalf Canyon Jewel-Flower	P	X				
<i>Streptanthus callistus</i>	Mt. Hamilton Jewel-Flower	P			X		
<i>Trifolium amoenum</i>	Showy Indian Clover	P	X				
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Least Bell's Vireo	A	X				Endangered
<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	San Joaquin Kit Fox	A	X				Threatened

FEDERAL LISTING

FE: Federally Listed as Endangered

FT: Federally Listed as Threatened

PL: Proposed Listing

SOC: Species of Concern

NL: No Listing

STATE LISTING

SSC: Species of Special Concern

SPECIES TYPE

A: Vertebrate animal

P: Vascular plant

I: Invertebrate animal

Preliminary List of Natural Communities

- Agricultural
- Annual ruderal grassland
- Oak savannah
- Coast live oak woodland
- Mixed riparian forest
- Seasonal wetland
- Scrub/chaparral
- Cismontane woodland
- Valley and foothill grassland
- Serpentine rocky outcrops
- Serpentine chaparral
- Serpentine grassland
- Serpentine seeps
- Aquatic (ponds or streams that do not support emergent vegetation)
- Marshes
- Rocky substrates/talus slopes
- Mesic and alkaline places in valley foothill grassland
- Closed cone coniferous forest
- Broadleafed upland forest
- Sycamore/valley oak alluvial woodland
- Mixed evergreen forest

Conservation Objectives

- Preserve the diversity of plant and animal communities within the Planning Area
- Protect Covered Species within the Planning Area
- Identify and designate biologically sensitive habitat areas
- Conserve habitat, and thereby contribute to the recovery of threatened, endangered and other identified plant and animal species within the Planning Area
- Reduce the need to list additional species

Conservation Objectives (con't)

- Set forth specific habitat-based goals and objectives expressed in terms of amount and quality of habitat
- Determine the extent of impacts to species from incidental take caused by Covered Activities
- Provide an effective adaptive management and monitoring strategy for Covered Species and natural communities that is consistent with the NCCPA, FESA, and regulations promulgated there under.

Independent Scientific Input

- Recommend scientifically sound conservation strategies for species and natural communities
- Recommend a set of reserve design principles that address the needs of species, landscapes, ecosystems, and ecological processes
- Recommend management principles and conservation goals that can be used in developing a framework for the monitoring and adaptive management component of the Plan
- Identify data gaps and uncertainties so that risk factors can be evaluated.

Interim Projects Process

- Ensure coordination regarding development, construction or other projects or activities approved or initiated in the Planning Area before completion of the Plan
- Facilitate CESA and FESA compliance for interim projects that require it
- Ensure that interim projects are not unduly delayed due to preparation of the Plan.

Interim Projects Process (con't)

- The Local Partners are coordinating a more specific process with the Wildlife Agencies for Interim Project Planning
- Largest interim process identified to date is the Coyote Valley Specific Plan

Public Review

- Draft for Public Review
- Available at: ***<http://hcp.sccgov.org>***
- Comments are due April 1, 2005 to:

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California Department of Fish & Game
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